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OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Thirty-eighth session

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER
ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION

Eighth periodic reports of States parties due in 1989

Addendum

JORDAN */

[31 October 1989]

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*/ The present report constitutes the seventh and eighth periodic reports of Jordan, due on 30 June 1987 and 30 June 1989 respectively, combined in a single document.

For the fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by the Government of Jordan and the summary records of the meetings of the Committee at which those reports were considered, see:

Fifth periodic report - CERD/C/105/Add.3 and Add.6 (CERD/C/SR.685);
Sixth periodic report - CERD/C/130/Add.3 (pending consideration).

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Introduction

1. This report covers the period up to the end of 1988. It should be recalled that Jordan's sixth report was submitted on 6 August 1986.

2. Jordan submitted two separate reports on 12 April 1984 and 3 August 1984, issued under the symbols CERD/C/105/Add.3 and CERD/C/105/Add.6 respectively, which the Committee regarded as Jordan's fifth periodic report.

3. Jordan is committed to all the humanitarian principles set forth in its Constitution and legislation and also in international coventions, the Charter of the United Nations and human rights instruments. Furthermore, it is eager to co-operate with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and to submit such reports as are required.

PART I. GENERAL INFORMATION

4. Jordan is subject to the rule of law and it is the law which guarantees the protection of people's rights. Indeed, Jordanian legislation not only prohibits discrimination but also prescribes penalties for the practice of discrimination.

5. In 1987, the population of the East Bank of the river Jordan was estimated at 2,896,800 persons, comprising 1,515,340 males and 1,381,460 females, distributed among the various governorates of the Kingdom as shown in table 1 below:

Table 1

Population of the East Bank, 1987

Governorate	Total	Male	Female
Amman	1 203 000	631 040	571 960
Zarqa	419 100	219 500	199 600
Irbid	704 100	362 900	341 200
Mafraq	101 970	52 750	49 220
Balqa	200 590	104 700	95 890
Karak	124 220	65 150	59 070
Tafila	42 820	22 000	20 820
Ma'an	101 000	57 300	43 700

6. Of the total population, 2,018,800 were living in urban areas and 878,000 in rural areas. The expression "urban areas" refers to settlements with a population of 5,000 or more.

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7. The population of Jordan is not evenly distributed throughout the territorial area of the country. For example, more than half of the population lives in the capital, its suburbs and the Jordan Valley. The population density increases in the north of the country, amounting to 85 persons per km^2, but is much lower in the southern areas, with 15 persons per km^2 at Karak and 8 at Ma'an. In the desert areas of which the largest part of the country consists (about 77 per cent of the area of the East Bank), population density is one person per km^2.

8. Arabs constitute the majority of Jordan's population, accounting for 98 per cent of the total. The remainder are groups of non-Arab origin who arrived and settled in the area in the late 1870s. Most of these immigrants came from the area north of the Caucasus (Circassians, Chechenis and Daghestanis); others came from elsewhere (Armenians, Kurds, Turks, etc.). All enjoy Jordanian citizenship. The policy of the Jordanian Government is based on the principle that all citizens of Jordan have equal rights and duties, as members of a single family. The principle of solidarity, together with a firm belief in co-existence as a single entity, is the basic precept that completely precludes all intercommunal problems in the territory of Jordan.

9. In Jordan, ethnic and religious minorities enjoy complete freedom. They have their own places of worship and their own schools, clubs and charitable associations, which operate independently. These include the Circassian Association, the Armenian Association, etc. Non-Muslim religious communities have their own laws and courts, to which cases arising between their members can be referred in all matters pertaining to personal status that fall within the jurisdiction of the religious courts. These communities perform their religious observances in complete freedom, and prayers at their places of worship are broadcast by the Jordanian broadcasting service on a footing of equality with those of the Muslims.

10. The minorities in Jordan are fully entitled to take part in the work of Parliament, as the country is divided into constituencies with representatives of the minorities in virtually every one of them. For example, a number of seats in the House of Representatives are allocated to each governorate, and the governorate of Amman and the city of Amman itself have six Muslim representatives, including one Circassian or Checheni, and one Christian representative. Members of the minorities are also eligible for high-ranking government posts without discrimination.

11. The 1988 statistics of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) indicated that there were 870,490 Palestinian refugees registered and living in the East Bank, distributed among 10 camps in various parts of the country, namely, Irbid Camp, Azmi el-Mufti (Husun) Camp, Suf Camp, Jerash (Gaza) Camp, Zarqa Camp, Marka Camp, Jabal el-Hussein Camp, Baqa'a Camp, Amman New Camp (Wehdat) and Talbieh Camp.

12. Following the unification of the East and West Banks in 1950, the Palestinians began to share responsibility and enjoy political representation. The Government made every effort to ensure equal treatment of Palestinians

living in the West Bank and those living in Jordan. It still provides them with financial assistance to enable them to stay in the West Bank and thereby thwart Israel's attempts to expel them from their homeland. In accordance with the legislation in force, which was promulgated by the Jordanian Government to regulate the affairs of the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank, most of them hold Jordanian passports under Jordan's consistent policy of assisting the population of the West Bank by facilitating their movement and travel. With regard to employment, they are allowed to conduct business activities in the East Bank and can also work there, subject to the regulations concerning the maintenance of their right of residence and family reunification in the West Bank. Their right to acquire property, as well as their ownership of property previously acquired, is protected under the legislation in force and has not been changed in any way.

13. Palestinian refugees enjoy full freedom to move from one camp to another and to travel to any part of Jordan to which they may wish to go.

14. In co-operation with UNRWA, the Jordanian Government provides them with all the services and facilities they require in the educational, health and other spheres.

15. On 31 July 1988, Jordan announced its decision to sever its legal and administrative links with the West Bank. The decision was taken in accordance with the wishes of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and on the basis of the prevailing Arab conviction that such a step would help to support the struggle of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent State. In fact, the decision was taken 38 years after the unification of the East and West Banks, 14 years after the Rabat Summit and six years after the Fez Summit, at which it was unanimously agreed that an independent Palestinian State should be established in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a basis for and an outcome of a peaceful settlement.

16. The consequences of the severance of ties with the West Bank affect only the occupied Palestinian territory and its population, and obviously not Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin living in Jordan. The latter all enjoy the full rights and obligations associated with citizenship in exactly the same way as any other citizen, whatever his origin. They are an integral part of the Jordanian State, holding its citizenship, living in its territory and participating in its public life and all its activities.

17. The desert is characterized by particularly harsh climatic conditions and soil unfit for agriculture, even with irrigation. The area of desert is approximately 70,000 km^2, i.e. about 77 per cent of the area of the East Bank. In 1987, the desert population was estimated at 77,000 persons, distributed among 125 settlements. In the northern desert, which comprises most of the governorates of Mafraq and Zarqa, there are 84 settlements with a combined population of 47,000, i.e. 61 per cent of the total desert population. The population of the central desert is approximately 8,600, i.e. about 12 per cent of the desert population, living in 18 settlements. The southern desert comprises 21 settlements with a combined population of 21,000, i.e. 27 per cent of the total desert population. The Government

provides the desert population with services in various fields. It has opened 50 health centres, 5 dental clinics and 7 maternity and child care centres, staffed by 47 doctors and 71 nurses. In the desert areas, the ratio of doctors to the population amounts to 5.8 per 10,000 persons.

18. The desert areas have a school-age population of 23,000, comprising 12,650 boys (55 per cent) and 10,350 girls (45 per cent), which constitutes 30 per cent of the total desert population. These areas have 1,200 teachers and 192 schools, of which 167 are primary (compulsory) schools and 25 secondary schools. The Ministry of Education is currently in the process of drawing up a comprehensive plan to improve the standard of education in Jordan, including its desert areas.

19. The Government has provided the desert areas with basic services. For example, by 1986, it had constructed a 1,300 km road network serving most nomadic areas and communities. Furthermore, it supplies 93 per cent of the desert population with electricity and 99 per cent with water; it provides telecommunication services, especially telephone and postal services, in 77 desert settlements. The Government is currently considering the question of the comprehensive development of the Jordanian desert and has drawn up draft plans to that end, with a view to improving living conditions and stemming the tide of migration from the desert to urban areas.

20. In 1987, the Government continued its efforts to stimulate the national economy and adapt it, as far as possible, to the circumstances of economic recession still prevalent in the States of the region. The Government continued to pursue economic policies aimed at promoting various economic activities, with special emphasis on the encouragement of domestic production, support for national exports and the attraction of savings and foreign investment as a means of financing and developing domestic economic activity.

21. The Jordanian economy is still suffering from the adverse effects of economic recession, particularly the decline in external demand for Jordanian labour, rising unemployment in the domestic market, the decline in the volume of remittances from Jordanians working abroad and the decrease in the value of the financial assistance provided by the Arab States. Trends in the main economic indicators for 1987 are reviewed in the following paragraphs.

22. The domestic product at current prices grew by 3.3 per cent in 1987, compared with a growth rate of 0.8 per cent in 1986. Despite a decline of 0.3 per cent in the general level of prices, the rate of growth in GDP at fixed prices increased by 0.8 per cent in 1986 to 3.6 per cent in 1987. The market value of GDP at fixed prices grew by 3.1 per cent in 1987 compared with 2.1 per cent in 1986.

23. At the sectoral level, the agricultural sector showed marked signs of improvement in 1987, as the income generated by this sector grew by 14.5 per cent compared with a decline of 6.4 per cent in 1986.

24. The industrial sector, including the mining/quarrying and manufacturing subsectors, grew at the acceptable rate of 4.3 per cent, while the construction sector declined by 10.4 per cent in 1987 compared with a 1 per cent decline in the previous year. Other rates of growth ranged from 7.5 per cent in social services to 1.6 per cent in the trade sector.

25. For the first time since the beginning of the 1970s, the Jordanian economy experienced an actual decline in the general level of prices in 1987; indeed, the cost-of-living index declined by 0.3 per cent from its 1986 level. This decline was brought about by a reduction in domestic demand coupled with an increase in the supply of certain goods. A number of government decisions also played a significant role in reducing the prices of many consumer goods.

26. In 1987, public income amounted to 804.2 million Jordanian dinars, representing an increase of 8.8 per cent over the previous year. This growth was the result of an increase in the amount of domestic revenue and development loans, by 6.9 per cent and 55.7 per cent respectively, partly offset by a 6.8 per cent decline in the amount of financial assistance received by Jordan. As a result of government measures aimed at controlling and rationalizing expenditure, public expenditure grew at the moderate rate of 2.8 per cent, amounting to 1,008.7 million dinars in 1987, which was 1 per cent less than the budgetary estimates and exceeded the development plan target by 3.7 per cent. The increase was mainly in current expenditure, which grew by 6 per cent, while capital expenditure declined by 1.6 per cent compared with 1986. This is primarily attributable to a reduction in domestic and foreign loan repayments by 42.5 per cent in 1987. This combination of developments resulted in a financial deficit amounting to 204.5 million dinars, i.e. a 15.6 per cent reduction compared with 1986. The deficit was covered by means of domestic and external borrowing.

27. The foreign trade sector witnessed a significant improvement in 1987, as the volume of foreign trade (national exports plus imports) increased by 8.2 per cent compared with a 19.1 per cent decline in 1986. Both national exports and commodity imports contributed to the increase. Indeed, national exports grew by 10.3 per cent in 1987 in relation to their 1986 level, and the per capita share of these exports increased to 85.9 dinars from 80.7 dinars in 1986. Similarly, commodity imports in 1987 increased by 7.7 per cent in comparison with their 1986 level, and the per capita share of imports grew to 316 dinars from 304.1 dinars in 1986. As a result, in 1987, the contribution of foreign trade to GDP increased to 62.3 per cent and the per capita share of foreign trade to 401.9 dinars.

28. The objectives of the current five-year plan (1986-1990) cover all areas of activity, including social development. The plan clearly specifies that the social dimension is of paramount importance, especially since social development is one of the corner-stones of economic development and also the ultimate aim of development efforts in general. All citizens have the right to adequate health, education and housing services, which must be provided in conjunction with the achievement of a more equitable distribution of income among the people and the various regions. Future development efforts will be aimed at the definitive elimination of pockets of poverty through employment opportunities, income-generating projects and ongoing training and skill development. Accordingly, social development efforts will focus on the following fields:

(a) Achievement of social justice in all parts of the Kingdom in order to ensure a geographical balance in the distribution of social and economic services;

(b) Regional and local development and provision of incentives for the population to contribute to and participate in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of comprehensive development programmes through the enhancement of regional planning methods;

(c) Expansion of economic and social development projects in the Jordanian desert, including improvement of existing infrastructure, in order to identify the potential of the desert areas in Jordan and ensure the utilization of their natural resources and their general development by establishing infrastructural facilities and promoting various branches of activity;

(d) Development and dissemination of health services, including improvement of their effectiveness in order to reduce the infant mortality rate, extend life expectancy, firmly establish the concepts of preventive and primary health care and increase health awareness among the population;

(e) Expansion and development of education services with a view to the complete eradication of illiteracy by the year 2000, by increasing the proportion of children attending primary and secondary schools and qualitatively improving educational curricula, methods and services so as to make them more consistent with future needs;

(f) Expansion of communication services, in keeping with the developmental role that Jordan intends to play in the Arab world;

(g) Provision of suitable housing for the population, especially for low-income groups, and supply of water, electricity, sewage-disposal and all other necessary services to all settlements.

29. The specific aims of social development are:

(a) To develop human resources by improving living conditions and social institutions;

(b) To endeavour to achieve social justice with a view to strengthening attachment to the homeland and the sense of satisfaction derived from a give-and-take approach;

(c) To improve the effectiveness, expand the capacity and broaden the programmes of existing social institutions and voluntary bodies in order to compensate for the shortage of services whenever necessary;

(d) To deal with social problems and the break-up of families through preventive and remedial programmes;

(e) To consolidate the role of the family in social education, as the foundation stone of the social edifice, since it is the natural environment for the development of the individual;

(f) To develop and improve traditional and rural cottage industries and handicrafts in order to protect the people's artistic heritage as a suitable means of increasing individual and national income;

(g) To provide social security for persons not covered by the existing schemes, in the form of an adequate fixed income (for the poor and needy) sufficient to meet family needs and the needs of persons with a low income or lacking a means of livelihood;

(h) To provide job opportunities for disabled persons who can be rehabilitated and to facilitate their access to work and public service in public and private enterprises;

(i) To protect and promote the welfare of children, as the basic means of shaping their behaviour and values, and to provide them with an environment conducive to their balanced development;

(j) To increase women's contribution to development by enhancing their productive abilities and skills in all fields.

PART II. INFORMATION RELATING TO ARTICLES 2 TO 7 OF THE CONVENTION

Article 2

30. Jordan, as a party to the Convention, condemns racial discrimination in all its forms. This is emphasized in article 6 of the Jordanian Constitution, which stipulates: "Jordanians are equal before the law and there shall be no discrimination among them, in regard to their rights and obligations, on grounds of race, language or religion". The Constitution further stipulates that the State shall do everything within its power to ensure the availability of work and education and to guarantee peace of mind and equality of opportunity for all Jordanians (art. 6, para. 2).

31. In fact, Jordanian society is free from all forms of racial discrimination by virtue of its religious and cultural heritage. The Government has nevertheless adopted effective measures not only to prohibit discrimination but also to punish the practice thereof. It has enacted a number of laws to preclude all discrimination on grounds of sex, religion, origin or belief. For example, article 101 of the Constitution stipulates: "The courts shall be accessible to all and shall be protected from interference in their affairs."

32. Article 2 of the Constitution states that Islam is the religion of the State, and article 14 stipulates: "The State shall protect freedom of religious worship and belief, in accordance with the customs observed in the Kingdom, provided that such is not prejudicial to public order or incompatible with morality." One example of the recognition of religious freedom in Jordan is the permission granted to non-Muslim religious communities to set up religious councils and bodies to hear disputes arising between community members in regard to divorce, marriage and other personal matters.

33. Article 15, paragraph 1, of the Constitution stipulates: "The State shall guarantee freedom of opinion and every Jordanian shall be free to express his opinion orally, in writing, pictorially or by any other means of expression, provided that he does so within the limits set by the law."

34. Under article 16 of the Jordanian Constitution:

"1. Jordanians shall have the right of assembly within the limits of the law.

"2. Jordanians shall have the right to establish associations and political parties provided that their objectives are lawful, that their means are peaceful and that their statutes are consistent with the Constitution."

35. Act No. 22 of 1986, concerning election to the House of Representatives, establishes the right of Jordanians to take part in elections and specifies the conditions on which they may do so. The scope of eligibility to vote and stand as a candidate in elections to the House of Representatives has been broadened to include women. Under the amendment to the Municipalities Act promulgated in 1982, women are eligible to vote and to stand as candidates in elections to municipal councils. Article 4 of the Civil Status Act No. 61, of 1976, gives women the right to break an engagement by virtue of their equality with men in this respect.

Article 3

36. In keeping with its firmly established policy, the Jordanian Government has consistently condemned racial segregation and apartheid. Jordan maintains no political, economic or other relations with the racist régime in South Africa. Jordan has taken a firm stand in support of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa; it has consistently upheld the right of these peoples to self-determination and has supported all the United Nations resolutions on this question.

Article 4

37. The various information services in Jordan are diligently endeavouring to combat all forms of racial discrimination, at every level, in all Arab and foreign news bulletins and other programmes. In news reports through all the various media, they give extensive and intensive coverage to all the negative, inhuman aspects inherent in racial discrimination wherever it is practised in the world, especially in South Africa, the occupied Arab territories and all parts of the world where minorities and oppressed peoples are subjected to forms of persecution, torture, denial of their legitimate rights and inhuman practices.

38. Article 130 of the Jordanian Penal Code of 1960 contains the following provision: "Any person within the Kingdom who, in time of war or when the outbreak of a war is expected, engages in propaganda aimed at weakening national feeling or inciting to racial or religous intolerance shall be punished by hard labour for life." Article 150 of the same Code stipulates: "Any action and any written or spoken communication that gives rise, or is intended to give rise, to religious or racial bigotry or seeks to instigate strife among the various communities and races that constitute the nation shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of six months to three years and a fine not exceeding 50 dinars." Article 151, paragraph 1, of the Code provides: "Any person who joins an association established for the purposes mentioned in the preceding article shall be liable to the same penalty."

Paragraph 2 of the same article further stipulates: "In all such cases, an order shall be issued for the dissolution of the association and the confiscation of its assets."

Article 5

39. In compliance with the fundamental obligations laid down in article 2, Jordan, as a party to the Convention, has undertaken to prohibit and eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the rights set out below.

The right to equal treatment before the courts and all other organs administering justice

40. Article 101 of the Jordanian Constitution stipulates that the courts shall be accessible to all and protected from interference in their affairs (para. 1). In order to protect the courts from all forms of interference, articles 98 and 100 of the Constitution stipulate that the appointment and dismissal of judges shall be effected by royal decree, in accordance with the statutory provisions in force, and that the establishment of the courts, their hierarchy, subdivisions, jurisdiction and administrative procedures shall be determined by special legislation. These statutory provisions clearly indicate that the courts are accessible to all and protected from interference in their affairs.

The right to security of person and protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual, group or institution

41. The Jordanian Penal Code of 1960 contains provisions guaranteeing this right. For example, article 208 of the Code stipulates:

> "1. Anyone who subjects a person to any form of violence or coercion prohibited by law with a view to obtaining confession to a crime or related information shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of three months to three years.
>
> "2. Where acts of violence or coercion lead to sickness or injury, the penalty shall be imprisonment for six months to three years, unless such acts call for a more severe penalty."

42. In order to prevent officials from abusing their authority, article 178 of the Code stipulates: "Any official who arrests or imprisons a person on grounds other than those provided for by law shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of three months to one year." Article 181, paragraph 1, stipulates: "Any official who, in his official capacity, enters a person's home or any appurtenances thereof in circumstances other than those permitted by the law shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of three months to three years and a fine of 20 to 100 dinars." Paragraph 4 of the same article stipulates: "Any official who, in his official capacity, enters private premises such as a business establishment or its administrative offices in circumstances other than those permitted by law or without observing the procedures laid down

by law shall be punished by imprisonment for up to six months or a fine not exceeding 50 dinars." Article 179 stipulates: "Any warden or guard of a prison or correctional or reform institution, or any official assuming their functions, who admits a person without a judicial warrant or court order, or who detains a person for longer than the prescribed term, shall be punished by imprisonment for one month to one year".

Political rights, in particular the right to participate in elections - to vote and to stand for election - on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, to take part in government and in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service

43. Article 2, paragraph (a), of Act No. 22 of 1986, concerning elections to the House of Representatives, provides for the right to vote, stipulating: "Every Jordanian who has attained the age of 19 Gregorian years shall have the right to elect members of the House of Representatives, provided that his name has been entered in one of the final electoral registers. In this connection, the term 'Jordanian' refers to any Jordanian citizens, whether male or female."

44. Article 18 of the Act sets forth the conditions for membership of the House of Representatives as follows:

(a) Candidates must have held Jordanian citizenship for 10 years at least and must have no claim to foreign nationality or protection;

(b) They must be registered voters on one of the final electoral registers;

(c) They must be 30 years of age by the end of their term of nomination;

(d) They must never have been sentenced to imprisonment for a term exceeding one year for a non-political offence which has not been pardoned, and must not have been convicted of a criminal or moral offence;

(e) They must not be members of an unlawful organization, the expression "unlawful organization" being understood to refer to any party or organization whose principles and objectives are inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

45. Article 19 stipulates: "Any person may stand as a candidate for election to the House of Representatives in a single constituency." Article 31 provides for the division of the Kingdom into a number of electoral constituencies in accordance with the schedule annexed to the Act, which lists the electoral constituencies and the seats allocated to each of them in the House of Representatives.

46. Under the provisions of the same Act, public servants may not stand as candidates for election to the House of Representatives unless they submit their resignation from their functions one month prior to the date set for the elections, in which case it is up to the competent official authority to accept or reject the resignation, on the understanding that the resignation shall be deemed to be accepted if no decision thereon is notified within 10 days from the date of its submission (art. 20).

47. Under article 75 of the Jordanian Constitution, any person who has been sentenced to imprisonment for more than one year for a non-political offence not covered by a general amnesty is ineligible to stand for election.

Freedom of movement

48. Article 9 of the Constitution stipulates that no Jordanian shall be expelled from the territory of the Kingdom, and that no Jordanian shall be prohibited from residing at any place of his choice or forced to reside at a particular place, except in the circumstances provided for by law. Article 4, paragraphs (a) and (b), of the Passport Act No. 2 of 1969 makes no distinction between men and women in regard to the right to leave and return to the country. Indeed, both men and women have the right to leave and return, provided that they hold a valid passport issued in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Furthermore, the Minister of the Interior may allow Jordanian citizens to leave or return to the Kingdom on any official travel document establishing the bearer's identity, without the need for a passport, in special cases on a basis of reciprocity. These provisions clearly indicate that the legislation in force makes no distinction between men and women in regard to their right to leave or return to the Kingdom or their right to take up residence at any place they may choose. This is corroborated by actual practice, and no instructions have been issued that restrict the freedom of any Jordanian to leave or return to the country, provided that no violation of the applicable laws and regulations has been committed.

The right to nationality

49. In accordance with the Jordanian Nationality Act No. 6 of 1954, Jordanian nationality is enjoyed by:

(a) Anyone who has obtained Jordanian nationality or a Jordanian passport in accordance with the Jordanian Nationality Act of 1928, as amended, Act No. 6 of 1954 and Act No. 22 of 1987, as amended;

(b) Anyone born to a father holding Jordanian nationality;

(c) Anyone born in the Kingdom to a mother holding Jordanian nationality and a father of unknown or foreign nationality, or whose paternity has not been legally established;

(d) Anyone born in the Kingdom to unknown parents, as any foundling in the Kingdom of Jordan is deemed to have been born there, failing evidence to the contrary;

(e) All the members of the northern nomadic tribes specified in article 25, paragraph 2, of the provisional Electoral Act No. 24 of 1960, who were actually living in the territories incorporated in the Kingdom in 1930.

50. With regard to the question of the nationality of married women, the Jordanian Nationality Act of 1954 and Act No. 22 of 1987, as amended, provide for their protection against statelessness or such difficulties as might result therefrom. This matter is covered by article 8, which stipulates that

a foreign woman who marries a Jordanian is entitled to Jordanian nationality if she applies for it in writing. Arabs may do so on the expiration of three years from the date of their marriage and non-Arabs five years after their marriage. Furthermore, a Jordanian woman who marries a foreigner has the right to retain her nationality and, if she renounces her Jordanian nationality, she still has the right to recover it if the marriage is dissolved. In the event of a conflict of laws, Jordanian law prevails, pursuant to article 26 of the Civil Code, promulgated under Act No. 43 of 1976, which stipulates that the court shall specify the law to be applied in cases involving unknown nationality or persons found to be holding several nationalities concurrently, on the understanding that persons found to be concurrently holding Jordanian nationality and the nationality of another State shall be subject to Jordanian law.

51. Persons applying for naturalization must fulfil a number of conditions; for example they must be of good conduct and reputation, with no criminal record, and they must not compete with Jordanians in business. If these conditions are not met, Jordanian nationality is not granted, under the Jordanian Nationality Act.

The right to marriage and choice of spouse

52. The Civil Status Act No. 61 of 1976 makes ample provision for the free choice of a spouse. Under article 4 of this Act, a woman may break off her engagement in the same way as a man. Article 7 stipulates: "A woman under 18 years of age shall not be given in marriage if her suitor is more than 20 years older than her, unless the judge is satisfied that she has given her consent, of her own free will, and that due regard has been shown for her interests." In Jordan, marriage among non-Muslims is regulated by the legislation concerning civil status in non-Muslim religious communities, as provided for by article 108 of the Constitution. Furthermore, article 109, paragraph 1, stipulates: "Religious community councils shall be formed in accordance with the provisions of legislation to be enacted for that purpose. Such legislation shall define the jurisdiction of the said councils in regard to matters concerning civil status and the religious endowments established for the benefit of the community in question." Accordingly, Act No. 2 of 1938, concerning non-Muslim community councils, and the Act concerning civil status in Jordanian Christian communities, were promulgated.

The right to own property alone as well as in association with others

53. In Jordan, the right to own property is not restricted to a particular social group to the exclusion of others. On the contrary, any Jordanian may exercise the right to own property. Article 1018 of the Civil Code of 1976 stipulates:

> "1. The right of ownership consists in the owner's unrestricted power to dispose of his property in terms of title, yield and usufruct.
>
> "2. The owner shall enjoy the property owned, as well as its yield, its returns and its product, and may dispose of it in any lawful manner."

54. Article 1020 emphasizes this right, which cannot be alienated without a lawful reason; it stipulates that "private property shall not be expropriated without a lawful reason" (para. 1), and that "private property may be expropriated only in the public interest and in return for fair compensation as prescribed by law" (para. 2).

55. The right to own property is recognized by law as a human right, but its exercise must not be arbitrary and is subject to a number of restrictions. For example, the owner of property must not abuse his title thereto. This qualification is set forth in article 1012 of the Civil Code, which stipulates: "The owner is free to dispose of his property as he wishes, provided that such disposal is not blatantly detrimental to others or contrary to the legislation concerning public or private interests." In fact, the prohibition of abuse of this right is not restricted to domestic legislation, since it also finds expression in international law, as reflected in the ruling of the International Court of Justice in the matter of the free zones between France and Switzerland.

56. The State may restrict ownership in accordance with the principle of the public interest. Such restriction is provided for in article 11 of the Jordanian Constitution, which stipulates: "Private property may be expropriated only in the public interest and in return for fair compensation as prescribed by law." Article 1020, paragraph 2, of the Civil Code (quoted in para. 54 above) makes it a condition that the State should pay fair compensation to the owner of the property. An example of the second type of restriction of the right to own property is the State's subjection of the agricultural holdings in the Jordan valley to detailed regulation and many restrictions aimed at promoting social justice. Numerous legislative enactments have been promulgated to that end, including Act No. 31 of 1962, concerning the Eastern Ghor Canal, which was subsequently superseded by Act No. 17 of 1974 concerning the Natural Resources Authority, which restricted landholding by private individuals and their legal dependants in the area of the Eastern Ghor Canal project to 200 dunums of irrigated land, with a minimum limit of 30 dunums per agricultural plot.

57. The Civil Code stresses the importance of the family as the basic unit in any society. Article 1061 stipulates: "The members of a single family sharing the same occupation or interest may agree, in writing, on the establishment of family ownership of property. Such property may consist either in a legacy that they inherit and agree to pool, in full or in part, as family property or in any other assets that they own and agree to include in such property." All the above-mentioned legislation was enacted to uphold the right to own property whether alone or in association with others.

The right to inherit

58. Article 1086 of the Jordanian Civil Code regulates matters pertaining to inheritance. Paragraph 1 of the article stipulates that "the heir shall, by succession, acquire the immovable and movable property and rights comprising the estate". Paragraph 2 stipulates that "the designation of the heirs, the determination of their respective shares of the estate and the passage of title to the inherited property shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of Islamic law".

59. The question of inheritance among non-Muslim communities in Jordan is regulated by many different laws, the most important of which are:

(a) The law of succession, as applied to foreigners and non-Muslims, (Act No. 8 of 1941);

(b) The law on civil status in the diocese of the Latin Patriarch, article 210 of which provides for the application of the civil law in matters pertaining to the succession of persons other than the clergy;

(c) The law on civil status among the Eastern Catholic communities in Jordan, article 213 of which provides for the application of the civil law, i.e. the Jordanian Civil Code;

(d) The Byzantine family law and the law on succession and wills of the orthodox community annexed thereto, which provides for the sharing of estates either in accordance with the will of the testator or in accordance with the law if he dies intestate. Under this law, male and female heirs are entitled to equal shares in the estate;

(e) The law on civil status of the Evangelical community, which contains provisions on inheritance whereby the estate is divided in accordance with the will of the testator. In the event of intestacy, personal and real property is divided in accordance with the Ottoman law of succession, which also provides for equality between men and women in regard to inheritance;

(f) Act No. 2 of 1938, concerning the councils of non-Muslim religious communities, article 12 of which provides for the application of Jordanian law to any real property located in Jordan.

The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion

60. Article 2 of the Jordanian Constitution stipulates that Islam is the religion of the State, and article 14 further stipulates that the State shall ensure the free exercise of all forms of religious worship and belief in accordance with the customs observed in the Kingdom, provided that such is not prejudicial to public order or incompatible with morality. The recognition of religious freedom in Jordan is illustrated by the permission granted to non-Muslim religious communities to set up religious councils and bodies to settle disputes arising between community members in matters relating to divorce, marriage and the organization of family affairs. This freedom is provided for in article 109, paragraph 1, of the Constitution. For example, Jordan's Court of Cassation, in its hearing of case 55/74, ruled that the ecclesiastical court of the Roman Catholic community had jurisdiction in proceedings involving the annulment of marriage contracts in cases in which the wife was a member of the community and the husband had become a member thereof at the time of his marriage.

61. The State guarantees freedom of religious worship and belief for all Jordanians, regardless of their confessional differences. The Jordanian Criminal Code of 1960 prescribes severe penalties for any person who commits an offence against religion. Article 273 of the Code stipulates: "Any person who is found guilty of publicly maligning the prophetic sources of religious law shall be imprisoned for a period of one to three years." With a view to

protecting places of worship from desecration or destruction, article 275 stipulates: "Any person who damages, destroys or desecrates a place of worship, an emblem or any object held sacred by a community with the intention of insulting the religion of that community, or in the knowledge that the community would regard such an action as an insult to its religion, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of one month to two years or by a fine of five to 50 dinars." Freedom of religious worship is also safeguarded in so far as, under article 276: "Anyone who, without justification or legitimate reason, wilfully harasses a group of persons lawfully gathered together to celebrate religious rites, who derides their celebration of such rites, causes a disturbance during the celebration, or molests any person legally celebrating or attending such communal religious rites, shall be punished by up to three months' imprisonment and a fine of up to 20 dinars." Under article 278:

> "A penalty of imprisonment for a period of not more than three months, or a fine not exceeding 20 dinars, shall be imposed on any person who:
>
> "1. Publishes any printed, written, pictorial, graphic or symbolic material that is likely to offend the religious susceptibilities or insult the religious beliefs of other persons; or
>
> "2. Utters, in a public place or within hearing of another person, a word or a sound that is likely to offend the religious susceptibilities or beliefs of that other person."

The right to freedom of opinion and expression

62. As stated in article 15 of the Constitution, the State guarantees freedom of opinion and every Jordanian is entitled to express his opinion orally, in writing, pictorially or through any other form of expression permitted by law. Freedom of opinion and expression are regarded as inalienable rights of the human person, and personal freedom is safeguarded (art. 7 of the Constitution).

63. This freedom of opinion is manifested in the freedom of the press. Article 15 of the Constitution stipulates that publication and the press shall be free within the limits of the law (para. 2), and that the publication of newspapers cannot be suspended or their licence withdrawn except as provided by law (para. 3).

The right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association

64. Under article 16, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, Jordanians enjoy the right of assembly within the limits of the law. In order to hold a public meeting, it is necessary to notify the provincial governor 48 hours before the meeting. This notification, which has to be countersigned by at least five well-known persons, must specify the time, place and purpose of the meeting.

65. The Charitable Associations and Social Service Organizations Act No. 33 of 1966, as amended by Act No. 9 of 1972, stipulates that the establishment of charitable associations and social service organizations must be approved by the Minister of the Interior, who may consult the governor of the province in which the association or organization is to be established.

66. Under the terms of the Act, the statutes of such associations, organizations or federations must specify, in a detailed and clear manner, the principal objectives for which they were established, as well as any other objectives that they are seeking to achieve. At the end of 1987, the number of charitable associations totalled 468, distributed among the governorates as follows: the capital, 172; Irbid, 97; Zarqa, 32; Karak, 19; Ma'an, 135; Mafraq, 13.

67. Charitable associations in Jordan are divided into categories.

68. Category I covers associations operating in the field of institutional care, including full institutional care of the disabled; institutional care of persons other than the disabled; institutional day care of the disabled.

69. Category II covers associations operating in the field of child care, nursery schools and kindergartens.

70. Category III covers associations providing vocational training and rehabilitation for young men and women (tailoring and dressmaking, carpentry, metalworking, weaving, printing, radio and television repairs, etc.).

71. Category IV includes associations operating in the field of education; associations operating in the field of public health; associations providing assistance in cash or in kind.

72. It is noteworthy that the activities of the charitable associations focus on services that help to meet basic human needs. Although the Ministry of Labour and Social Development provides services for the disabled and child welfare services at a number of nursery schools, similar services are also provided by charitable associations. This also applies to the services provided by charitable associations in the fields covered by the Ministries of Health and Education. Charitable associations can be divided into two types:

(a) The first type comprises associations pursuing a variety of broad objectives, such as the establishment of kindergartens, nursery schools, tailoring and dressmaking workshops and printing and knitting training centres, as well as the establishment of health clinics and the provision of assistance for needy persons, etc.;

(b) The second type comprises specialized associations pursuing specific objectives such as care of the disabled, the aged, orphans and prisoners, etc.

73. As a result of the manifest differences in population distribution, associations of the first type have been established in both rural and urban areas, whereas those of the second type are confined to the principal cities. For example, the specialized associations are based at Amman and Zarqa and have begun to extend their activities to other governorates only at a slow rate.

74. The main objectives of the charitable associations, as specified in their statutes, include: improving the living conditions of the local community; eradicating illiteracy; helping the poor; opening training centres; opening nutrition centres; opening centres for young women; opening clubs for children;

providing instruction in domestic science; providing assistance; opening maternal and child care centres; establishing kindergartens; opening vocational training centres; opening social clubs; caring for the aged, orphans, the disabled and prisoners; opening schools, etc.

75. In 1985, 13 foreign associations were also operating in Jordan, where they were providing a wide variety of essential social services, including health care, training, education, assistance in cash and in kind, and child welfare services. The majority of these associations were based in the capital, Amman.

76. Freedom to establish and join clubs is enjoyed under article 4 of the Youth Welfare Act No. 8 of 1987. Applications for the establishment of such clubs, specifying the names of 25 persons as members of their constituent bodies, must be submitted to the Ministry of Youth. In Jordan, there is nothing to prevent the holding of public meetings to discuss the purposes for which these clubs have been established.

Right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work, to protection against unemployment, to equal pay for equal work, and to just and favourable remuneration

77. Article 23 of the Constitution stipulates that all citizens shall enjoy the right to work, and that the State shall ensure the availability of work for Jordanians through its guidance and development of the national economy (para. 1). On the basis of this article of the Constitution, a number of legislative enactments have been promulgated in which the right of Jordanians to work has been reaffirmed. The most recent of these is Act No. 21 of 1960, as amended by Act No. 2 of 1965 and Act No. 25 of 1972.

78. In confirmation of this right, the Ministry of Labour has opened 16 employment offices, in all parts of the Kingdom, to help workers to find appropriate employment opportunities in a manner consistent with labour supply and demand. Under article 13 of the Jordanian Labour Act No. 21 of 1960: "The functions of the employment offices shall include the collection, in collaboration with other authorities and bodies, of information concerning developments in the employment situation, with a view to the preparation of analytical abstracts of this information, particularly for public and private authorities and bodies concerned with socio-economic planning."

79. The Jordanian Labour Act limits working hours to a maximum of eight per day, although it permits employees of hotels, places of entertainment and cinemas to work for nine hours per day, owing to the nature of their employment, provided that the length of time that they spend on duty includes a rest period which is not counted as part of the daily working hours (art. 37). The Jordanian Labour Act also guarantees suitable and fair compensation in the event of employment-related accidents. Under the amendment to the Labour Act promulgated in 1972, the minimum and maximum limits of compensation for disability resulting from employment-related accidents were increased to 500 dinars and 700 dinars respectively. Under the original Act,

the minimum amount had been set at 400 dinars and the maximum amount at 600 dinars. Article 4 (a) of the Social Security Act No. 30 of 1978 stipulates: "The provisions of this Act shall apply to all workers over 16 years of age, without discrimination on grounds of nationality, regardless of the duration or form of their contract and the nature and amount of their remuneration, irrespective of whether the greater part of the work is performed in or outside the Kingdom, without prejudice to the provisions of the international conventions that regulate questions of duplication in regard to insurance."

80. With regard to wages, there is no discrimination between foreign, Arab and local workers. However, article 2 (a) of the Jordanian Labour Act No. 28 of 1986 (amending the former Labour Act) stipulates that precedence shall be accorded to local workers and, in cases in which local workers are not available, Arabs shall enjoy precedence over foreigners.

81. When an Arab or foreign worker is granted a work permit, he has the same rights and obligations as a local worker. With regard to the right to equal conditions of employment, the Labour Act guarantees equality of rights between men and women, both sexes being entitled to equal pay for equal work. In fact, the Act contains a number of provisions to protect working women in view of their social situation and physiological constitution. Under article 46 of the Act, no woman is permitted to work in any occupation that is classified as dangerous. Article 47 further stipulates: "Women shall not be employed on night work between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m., except in the circumstances specified by decision of the Minister of Labour." The employment of women, during the period before and after childbirth in institutions covered by the Act is regulated by article 50, paragraphs (a) and (b), as follows:

> "(a) A woman employed in an institution covered by the Act shall be entitled to leave during the three weeks prior to the expected date of her delivery.
>
> "(b) A woman shall not be permitted to work in an institution covered by the Act during the three weeks immediately following her delivery."

82. Under article 52 of the Labour Act, the amount of the maternity allowance to be paid to a working woman is equivalent to half her wage rate in respect of each day of leave. In order to remedy this shortcoming in the Act in regard to the duration of leave and the wage payable in respect thereof, the new draft Labour Act stipulates that a woman must be paid her full wage during the period of maternity leave, which has been extended to 10 weeks on full pay, in keeping with Arab and international conventions and recommendations. Under the Act, she is also entitled to the full separation-from-service grant if she leaves her employment for marital reasons.

The right to form and join trade unions

83. With regard to the formation of trade unions, article 69 of the Jordanian Labour Act stipulates: "A trade union shall be formed at the request of 30 persons engaged in the same occupation or in occupations that are similar, interrelated or associated from the production standpoint, after the preparation of statutes containing their names."

84. A written application for the registration of the trade union must be submitted, together with: a copy of the trade union's statutes; the names, occupations and addresses of the applicants; the name, head office and address of the trade union; the names, ages, addresses and occupations of the members of the Administrative Committee.

85. Provided that the stipulated conditions have been fulfilled, and after examination of the statutes to ensure that they are consistent with the Labour Act, the statutes are approved and the trade union is registered with the Ministry. Following registration, the trade union must submit a statement of its assets and liabilities to the Registrar of Trade Unions. The Ministry of Labour provides the trade unions with material and moral support, as well as with advice concerning the conduct of their affairs, if so requested. The Ministry also supervises the election of members of their administrative bodies and inspects their books and records with a view to improving the conduct of their affairs and promoting the achievement of the objectives for which they have been established.

The right to housing

86. Article 39 of the Jordanian Civil Code of 1976 stipulates as follows:

"1. A person's domicile is the place at which he is normally resident.

"2. A person may have more than one domicile at any given time.

"3. If a person is not normally resident at a specific place, he is deemed to be without domicile."

87. During the 1970s and 1980s, considerable developments took place in regard to housing, including the establishment of a number of specialized institutions such as the Housing Authority, the Housing Bank, the Military Housing Authority, the Department of Urban Development and co-operative housing associations for the improvement of housing conditions.

88. With a view to overcoming the housing crisis and safeguarding every citizen's right to housing, the Housing Authority was established under the terms of the Housing Authority Act No. 27 of 1968, the principal aims and objectives of which were specified in article 4 of the Act, as follows:

"The Authority shall aquire ownership of land, prepare housing plans and, in its own capacity or through third parties, enter into direct contracts or invite tenders for the conduct of studies and the construction of dwellings in accordance with jointly prepared programmes, and subsequently lease the said dwellings, or sell them in accordance with an instalment plan, to civil servants and persons with low incomes.

"The Authority shall submit to the Government the requisite recommendations concerning public housing policy and its planning implications, in collaboration with the Town Planning Department of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and other public and private institutions concerned with this matter."

89. The provision of housing in Jordan is basically an activity of the private sector, with construction by private individuals. The role played by the public sector, although important, is limited to the provision of housing for specific population groups, such as families with low or limited income, civil servants, the armed forces and the population of the Jordan Valley region.

90. During the period 1980-1985, about 108,000 dwellings were constructed, of which 1.4 per cent by the public sector and 85.7 per cent by the private sector.

91. The Housing Authority, the real estate financing companies and the co-operative associations are mainly concerned with the provision of housing for medium-income families that are unable to build their own dwellings (which is one of the reasons for the large number of unoccupied dwellings constructed by the Housing Authority and real estate joint stock companies). The Government is also preparing housing programmes to meet the special needs of disabled persons and is conducting studies to identify and resolve their housing problems. The results of the National Housing Survey of 1986 showed that persons over 65 years of age constituted about 4.5 per cent of the total population, and the Government is studying the situation of this population group in order to assess their actual housing needs. Far from being confined to a specific region, the Government's projects cover various urban and rural areas through the Kingdom.

The right to public health, medical care and social security

92. The Government's policy, which is being pursued by the Ministry of Health, is based on the principle that all citizens have a fundamental right to health care. Under this policy, primary health care is regarded as the first line of defence against sickness.

93. The Public Health Act No. 21 of 1972 stipulates that the Ministry of Health is responsible for the provision of preventive and therapeutic medical services and must therefore do everything in its power to safeguard the health of citizens. The Ministry's statutes state that all citizens, without distinction, have a right to health, that the Ministry has a responsibility to provide health and medicinal services for all members of society and to improve the standard of health of all citizens, and that every citizen, wherever he may be living and regardless of his ethnic or social origin, has a right to benefit from these health services.

94. The objectives of the Socio-Economic Development Plan for 1981-1985 included the adoption of the principle of primary health care and the enhancement of preventive health services in Jordanian society with a view to ensuring health for all by the year 2000, as well as the expansion and improvement of medical care for all citizens. The objectives of the Socio-Economic Development Plan for 1986-1990 include the expansion of health care to include general medical practice, pre-natal care, family planning, immunization, health education, inspection of drinking water and local and imported foodstuffs, environmental health and school and mental health, with emphasis on the comprehensive nature of these services. The objectives also include the promulgation of the legislation needed to safeguard fully the health of all citizens through, inter alia, primary and other levels of health care.

95. A general review of achievements shows that considerable progress has been made in the endeavours to ensure the highest possible standard of health for all citizens, without discrimination, as may be seen from the following health indicators:

(a) The infant mortality rate was lowered from 151 per 1,000 in 1961 to 35 per 1,000 in 1988;

(b) Life expectancy among persons over one year of age rose from 45.8 years for males and 46.5 years for females in 1961 to 67 and 71 years respectively in 1988;

(c) The proportion of children under one year of age having received the basic vaccines increased from 63 per cent in 1986 to 86.5 per cent in 1988. In the case of children under two years of age, the proportion increased from 76 per cent in 1986 to 93.8 per cent in 1988;

(d) The proportion of deaths among children under five years of age due to diarrhoea was reduced from five per 1,000 in 1985 to one per 1,000 in 1988;

(e) The country has been maintained free of formerly endemic diseases, such as malaria, and tuberculosis has been brought under control.

Health care services

96. Health care services are provided for citizens, without discrimination, at three levels.

97. At the first level are the primary health care services, which are provided through primary health centres, maternal and child care centres, dental clinics and subsidiary health centres (rural clinics). The number of health centres in the Kingdom increased from 99 in 1983 to 227 in 1987 and the number of rural clinics declined from 278 to 218 during the same period. Between 1983 and 1987, the number of maternal and child care centres increased from 93 to 116 and the number of dental clinics from 46 to 68. At the present time, there are 456 primary and subsidiary health centres distributed throughout the Kingdom, each of which serves a population group of 500-5,000 persons. There are also 143 maternal and child care centres, each of which serves a population group of about 1,000 persons. The primary health centres throughout the Kingdom also include 76 dental clinics.

98. Within the limits of their capabilities, these centres provide primary health care services for all citizens, at a nominal charge to citizens capable of paying for medical and therapeutic services and free of charge to participants in the health insurance scheme. Preventive health services are provided free of charge to all, and the number of visits by patients to these centres in 1987 was 15 per cent higher than in 1986. The numerous measures that the Ministry has taken to improve the quality of the services rendered to citizens at these centres may be summarized as follows:

(a) The treatment card and the transfer system, which were introduced in 1987, as a result of which every citizen knows the centres to which he can apply for treatment;

(b) The amalgamation of services at a single location, so that the primary health centre can provide all forms of health care;

(c) The medical team: with a view to improving the services provided at subsidiary centres, a system has been introduced whereby a doctor from a main health centre, accompanied by a team of his staff, visits subsidiary centres to provide services for citizens attending them.

99. The second level of health care services is provided by the polyclinics and specialized departments of provincial and district hospitals.

100. The specialized and teaching hospitals provide the third level of health care services for patients transferred to them from the first and second levels.

101. The Medical Treatment Authority has recently been established to administer the second and third levels of health care services. At the present time, the endeavours and responsibilities of the Ministry are focused on the provision of primary health care for all citizens, with a view to raising the standard of these services, improving their efficiency and increasing their population coverage in order to reach all citizens and other residents, without discrimination, by the year 2000.

102. The Government has also established the Public Authority for Social Security under the terms of the provisional Social Security Act No. 30 of 1978, which places this Authority under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour. Article 4 (a) of the Act stipulates: "The provisions of this Act shall apply to all workers over 16 years of age, without discrimination on grounds of nationality, regardless of the duration or form of their contract and the nature and amount of their remuneration, irrespective of whether the greater part of their work is performed in or outside the Kingdom, without prejudice to the provisions of the international conventions that regulate questions of duplication in regard to insurance."

103. Article 7 further stipulates: "Insurance shall be compulsory for employers and employees, and the persons insured shall not be made to bear any part of the insurance costs, unless otherwise specified in this Act."

104. Under article 41, the insured person becomes entitled to a retirement pension on reaching the age of 60 in the case of a man, and 55 in the case of a woman. Age is established on the basis on an official birth certificate, or any other official document issued by a competent authority, at the time of affiliation to the Authority.

105. The Act makes provision for the application of six types of social insurance: (a) insurance against employment-related injuries and occupational diseases; (b) old-age, disability and death benefits; (c) insurance against temporary incapacity due to sickness or maternity; (d) health insurance for the worker and his family; (e) provision of family benefits; (f) insurance against unemployment.

106. These types of insurance cover the basic needs of all the various social groups. Although only the first two types of insurance have actually been put into effect, the Act provides for the application of the other types of

insurance in stages. This is a logical procedure in keeping with international social security practice, which begins by meeting one or more basic needs with a view to ultimately meeting all the basic needs.

107. A study of the provisions of the Act clearly shows that all social groups will eventually benefit from social security. This will be achieved in gradual stages in order to enable the Public Authority for Social Security, which is responsible for implementing the provisions and achieving the objectives of the Act, to cover all the social groups. Under the provisions of the Act, the persons covered by social security are: (a) workers who are subject to the provisions of the Labour Act; (b) civil servants who are not covered by civil, military or municipal pension schemes. The Act makes provision for the coverage of other groups, such as self-employed workers and farmers, at subsequent stages.

The right to education and training

108. Article 20 of the Constitution stipulates: "Primary education shall be compulsory for Jordanians and shall be provided free of charge at government schools." Article 19 further stipulates: "Communities shall have the right to establish and run their own schools for the education of their members, provided that they comply with the general provisions of the law, and subject to government supervision of their curricula and education policy." Under article 6, paragraph 2: "The State shall do everything within its power to ensure the availability of work and education and to guarantee peace of mind and equality of opportunity for all Jordanians."

109. The philosophy of education and education policy in Jordan is based on the Constitution, under which all citizens are guaranteed free, compulsory education and equality of opportunity in regard to education and work, and also on the Arab Islamic heritage, the principles of the glorious Arab revolution and Jordanian national experience. The provisional Education Act No. 27 of 1988 contains the following articles:

> Article 3, paragraph (b) (iii): "The Jordanian people is an integral unit, in which there is no place for racial, regional, confessional, tribal or clan bigotry."
>
> Article 3, paragraph (c) (i): "Jordanians are equal in regard to their rights and obligations, as well as their political, social and economic needs. They are distinguished by the extent of their devotion and attachment to their society."
>
> Article 3, paragraph (c) (vi): "Education is a social necessity and a right to which all persons are entitled, in accordance with their individual aptitudes and abilities."
>
> Article 4, paragraph (q): "Respect for the human person, the formation of values and positive attitudes towards oneself and others, work, social progress and the embodiment of democratic principles in individual conduct."

110. All sections of the people have the same privileges in regard to enrolment at government and private schools, regardless of race, colour, religion or sex. Consequently, Jordan does not suffer from this type of problem.

111. The guidelines that have been laid down in regard to basic educational curricula and school textbooks are in keeping with the educational philosophy set forth in the Education Act No. 27 of 1988. The first guideline, concerning the basic curricula, states: "Educational curricula shall be based on the philosophy and objectives of education, as specified in the Education Act." The second guideline, concerning the objectives of social development endeavours at the present stage, defines these objectives as follows:

(a) "Respect for the human person" and "promotion of the role of women in society" (para. 3.4.14);

(b) At the national and pan-Arab levels, the need for "belief in the fundamental interrelationship among the peoples of the world" (para. 5.26).

112. With regard to the distribution of schools among the various sections of the population, between urban and rural areas and between males and females, there is equality of educational opportunities at all levels and in all the various educational institutions. Foreign students residing in the Kingdom enjoy the same educational opportunities as those available to Jordanians, within the limits of their aspirations, their resources and their aptitudes.

Structure of education

113. Some statistics, percentages and indicators concerning education in Jordan are given below.

114. The educational system comprises: (a) kindergartens (attended for a period of two years), which are supervised by the private sector in accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Education; (b) basic education, which lasts for 10 years; (c) secondary education, lasting for two years, which is divided into two types: (i) general secondary education; (ii) vocational training and apprenticeship.

Table 2

Net enrolment rates for the academic year 1986/87

(Percentage)

Sex	Kindergartens	Primary	Preparatory	Secondary
Total	16.97	93.62	91.66	56.57
Males	18.25	92.89	91.66	56.57
Females	15.6	94.42	92.27	60.96

Table 3

Distribution of schools in the Kingdom, by sex and educational level, in urban and rural areas during the academic year 1986/87

	Kindergarten		Kindergarten + Primary		Primary		Primary + Preparatory		All levels	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Total	302	72	44	3	722	551	369	683	93	199
Males	-	-	1	-	213	96	167	300	31	97
Females	1	-	-	-	193	86	144	171	37	76
Mixed	30	72	43	3	316	369	58	212	25	36

	Preparatory		Secondary and Preparatory		Secondary		Sub-total		Grand total
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
Total	62	8	92	31	73	24	3 328	1 757	1 571
Males	63	6	53	17	36	12	1 062	534	528
Females	29	2	39	13	37	12	840	480	360
Mixed	-	-	-	1	-	-	1 426	73	683

115. The Kingdom has achieved a considerable quantitative and qualitative improvement in education during the last three decades. During the academic year 1987/88, the number of students totalled 963,252 and there were 3,565 schools and 42,533 teachers. The Ministry of Education distributes school textbooks free of charge to students at the compulsory educational stage and at cost price to secondary students. The Ministry also provides various services that help to ensure the successful achievement of the objectives of the educational process. These services include, in particular:

(a) In-service training for teachers, principals and school inspectors, with a view to enhancing their skills and capabilities in order to enable them to discharge their functions in a competent and effective manner;

(b) In-service training to develop the professional skills of teachers and staff employed at the Ministry and in the field, in their respective spheres of specialization, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry and the needs of individuals. Such training is usually provided at courses which are held throughout the year, but primarily during the summer holiday;

(c) Educational television, the aim of which is to develop new educational expertise and promote educational concepts and trends which traditional methods are unable to propagate among students and teachers. Educational television was used for the first time in Jordan in 1968, when formal educational and cultural programmes were broadcast during the morning and evening periods. Wide use has since been made of television in all fields of secondary educational studies;

(d) School radio, the aim of which is to provide students with educational information in a rapid and more effective manner through the use of various forms of broadcasting techniques. It also helps to enhance the educational and academic proficiency of teachers;

(e) School nutrition, the aim of which is to raise the level of achievement and performance of students by improving their standard of health through the provision of a light meal in order to provide them with better opportunities for physical and social development. The school nutrition programme, which was introduced in 1965, complements the various other educational services;

(f) School health, the aim of which is to improve the standard of health awareness and health education and provide students with basic health services with a view to protecting them from diseases and promoting a more hygienic school environment;

(g) School clubs, the aim of which is to help students to use their leisure time in an organized manner and in a proper social and educational climate through the practice of religious, cultural, scientific, artistic, vocational, sporting and voluntary activities. These activities take place during the summer holiday.

116. With a view to the promotion of training, the Government has established a specialized institution, known as the Vocational Training Authority, under the terms of the provisional Act No. 35 of 1976.

117. Article 3, paragraph (a), of this Act stipulates: "An institution, to be known as the Vocational Training Authority, shall be established in the Kingdom. It shall report to the Minister and shall enjoy corporate personality, as well as financial and administrative independence, subject to the provisions of this Act and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. In this capacity, it may be the plaintiff or the defendant in legal proceedings, in which it may arrange to be represented by the Attorney-General or any other person. It shall have an independent budget." Article 4 further stipulates:

> "The Authority shall offer vocational training opportunities in order to ensure the availability of skilled technicians and improve their capabilities in various fields of specialization and at various levels, through a wide variety of non-academic vocational training programmes, including:
>
> "(a) Industrial apprenticeship, through which young persons can benefit from long-term formal training;
>
> "(b) The training of workers, within the institutions by which they are employed, with a view to improving their capabilities;
>
> "(c) Intensive and rapid training in various occupations."

118. Local and foreign charitable associations are also helping to promote vocational training in Jordan, where they are providing all the requisite services, including the construction of vocational training centres in various parts of the Kingdom.

Article 6

The right to apply to the Jordanian tribunals for legal redress in respect of racial discrimination

119. Since racial discrimination is punishable under articles 150 and 151 of the Jordanian Penal Code, any person who has suffered harm as a result of racial discrimination has the right to submit a complaint to the Jordanian tribunals, which are accessible to all (art. 101 of the Constitution).

120. In actual fact, the tribunals have not handed down any judgements concerning racial discrimination, since such discrimination does not exist in Jordanian society.

Article 7

Effective measures in the fields of teaching and culture with a view to combating racial discrimination

121. In the cultural field, brief reference must be made to the fact that the Ministry of Culture and the National Heritage, formerly known as the Ministry of Culture and Youth, has been continually expanding and increasing the scope of its cultural services for young persons in most parts of the Kingdom. The Ministry has opened several sports, cultural and social clubs. It has given

considerable attention to the theatre and music and has endeavoured to promote the arts. Jordanian society has been influenced to a great extent by the ever-increasing impact of modern civilization. Consequently, Jordan is experiencing a process of constant cultural evolution as a result of interaction between its population and the local, Arab and international environment, with all the developments, problems and challenges encountered therein.

122. Human rights are taught as a subject at Jordan's universities. This subject, which comprises in-depth studies of human rights, forms a compulsory part of the international law syllabus, as well as an entire section of the constitutional law syllabus.

123. Jordan's universities also teach anthropology with a view to the elimination of erroneous concepts that link cultural achievements to ethnic origin and view some cultures as being superior and, consequently, entitled to dominate others. Jordan's universities are attended by thousands of students, of both sexes, from all sections of Jordanian society, including Arab Muslims, Arab Christians, Circassians, Chechenis, Armenians and persons from the Jordan Valley region, the colour of whose skin is affected by its hot climate. However, all these male and female students sit together in the lecture halls and their academic progress is in no way affected by their colour, religion, ethnic origin or sex.

124. The Ministry of Education is also taking measures to combat racial discrimination through education. These endeavours are reflected in the school syllabuses and textbooks, particularly in classes on the humanities and in books on Islamic education, the Arabic language and the social sciences. For example, the standard textbook on Islamic education for the second preparatory grade refers to human brotherhood (pp. 61-64), the meaning of freedom in Islam (pp. 183-188) and the status of women in Islam (pp. 188-192). The textbook for the third preparatory grade refers to the manner in which Islam combines faith and ideology (pp. 177-182). The book for the first secondary academic grade focuses on Islam and humanitarian problems, such as slavery, the system of social classes and racial discrimination (pp. 339-355). In the second secondary academic grade, emphasis is placed on Islam's rejection of racial discrimination (pp. 355-364) and the mutual respect, understanding and solidarity that characterizes Islamic society (pp. 365-384). The syllabus for the third secondary academic grade explains some of the effects of Islamic faith in regard to the promotion of human dignity (pp. 37-44), as well as the influence of the Koran on human society (pp. 63-66). The Arabic language reading books for various grades also contain numerous passages on this subject. Examples of these are: in the first preparatory grade: a lesson entitled "Islam combats racism" (p. 198); in the second preparatory grade: a lesson on the United Nations (p. 91).

125. The history textbooks also deal at length with this subject. For example, in the second preparatory grade ("The History of Europe"), there is a section on the French Revolution and its principles of freedom, fraternity and equality, and a definition of the principles of the League of Nations and the United Nations. In the third preparatory grade ("The History of the Arabs and the Muslims"), students are familiarized with Islamic principles advocating the elimination of regional and racial bigotry, as well as the political and social effects of Islam on the Arabs and the need to combat

racial discrimination. In the first secondary grade, the position of Islam is pointed out in regard to the non-Muslim citizens of Muslim countries and the emancipation of slaves. Finally, in the second secondary grade, students are familiarized with the work of international organizations (the League of Nations and the United Nations), as well as with their principles, which are based on human equality.

126. With regard to information, the news bulletins and programmes broadcast by radio and television, as well as the other information media in Jordan, provide extensive and intensive coverage of all the adverse and inhuman aspects inherent in racial discrimination wherever it is practised, particularly in the case of manifestations of such discrimination in South Africa, the occupied Arab territories and all other parts of the world in which repressed minorities and peoples are subjected to forms of domination, torture, denial of their legitimate rights and other inhuman practices.

127. The Jordanian information media participate in all the conferences and symposia that are held on the subject of racism and racial discrimination. This does not apply only to the official media, since the unofficial media also play an effective role in this respect through their publication, on various occasions, of surveys and photographic reports illustrating inhuman practices in countries that are pursuing a policy of racial discrimination in accordance with their social systems based on racism and racial discrimination.

128. In conclusion, reference must be made to the important fact that, although Jordan's heritage, culture and legislation have promoted the principles of justice and equality among its people, who are consequently free from the scourge of discrimination and racism, the Jordanian citizen is nevertheless closely affected by and highly critical of racist ideology, since he can observe the methods of repression, persecution and torture to which a brother, relative or neighbour is being subjected every day at the hands of the Israeli authorities, who are practising the worst forms of racial discrimination against the Arab population of the occupied territories.